

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

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PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 161605Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5457

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, AO, LT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON ANGOLA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO GAVE ME A RUN DOWN JAN 16 ON OAU SUMMIT MUCH ALONG THE LINES OF REPORTING FROM ADDIS. MOLAPO STRESSED THE DETERMINATION BY ANTI-MPLA STATES TO RESIST PRO-MPLA STEAMROLLER TACTICS. MOLAPO SAID THAT THERE WAS ONLY A CONSENSUS AT SUMMIT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. MOLAPO MADE IT CLEAR THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD NOT WITHDRAW UNLESS THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS ALSO DEPARTED.

2. I REVIEWED THE U.S. POSITION ON THE ANGOLA SITUATION. MOLAPO EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE U.S. ACTION IN THE LIGHT OF SENATE CUT IN AID TO ANGOLA. MOLAPO SAID THE UNITA/FNLA FAR OUTNUMBERED THE MPLA BUT THE MPLA FORCES HAD SUPERIOR WEAPONS. HE THOUGHT PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION IN ANGOLA WAS COMPLETELY DEMORALIZING TO UNITA/FNLA FORCES AND BY IMPLICATION THOSE AFRICAN STATES THAT WERE RELYING ON THE U.S. TO RESIST SOVIET MILITARY EXPANSIONISM. MOLAPO WAS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND CLEARLY HOPED THE U.S. WOULD FIND A WAY TO PROVIDE INCREASED MILITARY MATERIEL TO RESTORE THE BALANCE BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.

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NNN

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